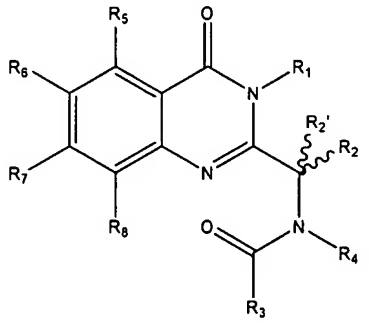
AMENDMENTS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. After amendments, claims 14-24 will be pending in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-13 (canceled)

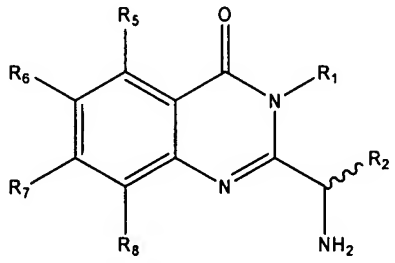
Claim 14 (new) A method for making an enantiomer, or an enantiomerically enriched mixture of a compound of the formula



I(a)

wherein said method comprises the steps of:

contacting an enantiomer, or an enantiomerically enriched mixture of a starting compound of formula



Formula II

with an alkali alkoxide in a $C_1 - C_6$ primary alcohol at a selected racemization reaction temperature whereby said enantiomer or enantiomerically enriched mixture is racemized to yield a racemic mixture;

isolating the racemic mixture;

subjecting said racemic mixture to an optical resolution process whereby the racemic mixture is separated into its corresponding stereoisomers; and

converting desired stereoisomer to said compound using an acid chloride of the formula R_3-C(O)-Cl

wherein

R_1 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, heteroaryl, alkylheteroaryl, substituted alkyl, substituted aryl, substituted alkylaryl, substituted heteroaryl, and substituted alkylheteroaryl;

R_2 and $R_{2'}$ are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, oxaalkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, heteroaryl, alkylheteroaryl, substituted alkyl, substituted aryl, substituted alkylaryl, substituted heteroaryl, and substituted alkylheteroaryl;

R_3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, substituted alkyl, substituted aryl, substituted aralkyl, substituted heteroaryl, substituted heteroaralkyl, oxaalkyl, oxaaralkyl, substituted oxaaralkyl, $R_{15}O$- and R_{15}-NH-;

R_4 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, substituted alkyl, substituted aryl, substituted aralkyl, substituted heteroaryl, substituted heteroaralkyl, and R_{16}-alkylene-;

R_5, R_6, R_7, R_8 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, fluoralkyl, nitro, dialkylamino, alkylsulfonyl, alkylsulfonamido, sulfonamidoalkyl, sulfonamidoaryl, alkylthio, carboxyalkyl, carboxamido, aminocarbonyl, aryl and heteroaryl;

R_{15} is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, substituted alkyl, substituted aryl, substituted aralkyl, substituted heteroaryl, and substituted heteroaralkyl; and

R_{16} is selected from the group consisting of alkoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, N-heterocyclyl and substituted heterocyclyl.

Claim 15 (new) The method of claim 14, wherein the $C_1 - C_6$ primary alcohol is ethanol.

Claim 16 (new) The method of claim 14, wherein the alkali alkoxide is a sodium or potassium alkoxide.

Claim 17 (new) The method of claim 14, wherein the alkali alkoxide is sodium ethoxide.

Claim 18 (new) The method of claim 14, wherein the racemization reaction temperature is less than 200°C.

Claim 19 (new) The method of claim 14, wherein the racemization reaction temperature is less than 100°C.

Claim 20 (new) The method of claim 14, wherein the racemization reaction temperature is at the boiling point of the reaction mixture.

Claim 21 (new) The method of claim 14, wherein the enantiomer has an R-configuration.

Claim 22 (new) The method of claim 14, wherein the enantiomer has an S-configuration.

Claim 23 (new) The method of claim 14, wherein the alkali alkoxide is derived from an alkali metal and a $C_1 - C_6$ primary alcohol.

Claim 24 (new) The method of claim 23, wherein the $C_1 - C_6$ primary alcohol is methanol or ethanol.